



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

News Release 07-27

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: Mar. 27, 2007

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps officials estimate reopening Little Goose Dam NavLock by March 30

STARBUCK, Wash. – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at the Walla Walla District anticipate having the Little Goose Dam navigation lock operational by March 30 by using a floating bulkhead.

The upstream gate at Little Goose Lock and Dam, located at Snake River mile 70.3, was damaged March 21, causing an unscheduled lock closure. Corps officials originally anticipated reopening the lock to commercial vessels by March 29. After assessing the situation, contract workers from Knight Construction and Corps personnel determined that a second large crane is necessary to move the gate out of its current position to make room for repair work and to allow limited lock operations using a floating bulkhead. A crane with the right capacity and characteristics for the dam was located Monday and should be on site Wednesday. The lock is now tentatively scheduled to open to commercial traffic on March 30 at 6 p.m. All other Walla Walla District locks are operational with normal service.

Once work is done to stabilize the gate and place it in a down position, the floating bulkhead will be used to provide interim lockage ability until permanent repairs can be made. Corps navigation officials have coordinated with inland shippers, cruise lines and ports concerning the extended lock outage at Little Goose Dam.

Floating bulkhead lockage will be available for commercial vessels only during night-time hours. This schedule for lockage will continue until all repairs to the gate are completed. Hours of lockage are to be determined – inland shippers, cruise lines and ports will be notified of that schedule as soon as possible.

All recreational craft lockage is cancelled until the lock returns to full service.

There will be at least two other lock closures (no bulkhead lockage) in April during the repair process, with times and dates to be determined. Little Goose lock is expected to return to full service on or about May 1. Updates will be provided as repair work progresses.

Public Notices and other navigation lock information are available on the Walla Walla District Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/t/navdata/default.html. The Corps is conducting an investigation into the cause of the gate damage.

-30-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil